

SUBCHAPTER A—ACQUISITION

PART 2—PILOT PROGRAM POLICY

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§2.1 Purpose.

Section 809 of Public Law 101-510, “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991,” as amended by section 811 of Public Law 102-484, “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993” and Public Law 103-160, “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994,” authorizes the Secretary of Defense to conduct the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program. In accordance with section 809 of Public Law 101-510, the Secretary may designate defense acquisition programs for participation in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program.

(a) The purpose of the pilot programs is to determine the potential for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process. Pilot programs shall be conducted in accordance with the standard commercial, industrial practices. As used in this policy, the term “standard commercial, industrial practice” refers to any acquisition management practice, process, or procedure that is used by commercial companies to produce and sell goods and services in the commercial marketplace. This definition purposely implies a broad range of potential activities to adopt commercial practices, including regulatory and statutory streamlining, to eliminate unique Government requirements and practices such as government-unique contracting policies and practices, government-unique specifications and standards, and reliance on cost determination rather than price analysis.

(b) Standard commercial, industrial practices include, but are not limited to:

(1) Innovative contracting policies and practices;

(2) Performance and commercial specifications and standards;

(3) Innovative budget policies;

(4) Establishing fair and reasonable prices without cost data;

(5) Maintenance of long-term relationships with quality suppliers;

(6) Acquisition of commercial and non-developmental items (including components); and

(7) Other best commercial practices.

§2.2 Statutory relief for participating programs.

(a) Within the limitations prescribed, the applicability of any provision of law or any regulation prescribed to implement a statutory requirement may be waived for all programs participating in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program, or separately for each participating program, if that waiver or limit is specifically authorized to be waived or limited in a law authorizing appropriations for a program designated by statute as a participant in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program.

(b) Only those laws that prescribe procedures for the procurement of supplies or services; a preference or requirement for acquisition from any source or class of sources; any requirement related to contractor performance; any cost allowability, cost accounting, or auditing requirements; or any requirement for the management of, testing to be performed under, evaluation of, or reporting on a defense acquisition program may be waived.

(c) The requirements in section 809 of Public Law 101-510, as amended by section 811 of Public Law 102-484, the requirements in any law enacted on or after the enactment of Public Law 101-510 (except to the extent that a waiver or limitation is specifically authorized for such a defense acquisition program by statute), and any provision of law that ensures the financial integrity of the conduct of a Federal Government

program or that relates to the authority of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense may not be considered for waiver.

§ 2.3 Regulatory relief for participating programs.

(a) A program participating in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program will not be subject to any regulation, policy, directive, or administrative rule or guideline relating to the acquisition activities of the Department of Defense other than the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)¹, the Defense FAR Supplement (DFARS)², or those regulatory requirements added by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, the Head of the Component, or the DoD Component Acquisition Executive.

(b) Provisions of the FAR and/or DFARS that do not implement statutory requirements may be waived by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology using appropriate administrative procedures. Provisions of the FAR and DFARS that implement statutory requirements may be waived or limited in accordance with the procedures for statutory relief previously mentioned.

(c) Regulatory relief includes relief from use of government-unique specifications and standards. Since a major objective of the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program is to promote standard, commercial industrial practices, functional performance and commercial specifications and standards will be used to the maximum extent practical. Federal or military specifications and standards may be used only when no practical alternative exists that meet the user's needs. Defense acquisition officials (other than the Program Manager or Commodity Manager) may only require the use of military specifications and standards with advance approval from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, the Head of the DoD Component, or the DoD Component Acquisition Executive.

¹Copies of this Department of Defense publication may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402.

²See footnote 1 to § 2.3(a).

§ 2.4 Designation of participating programs.

(a) Pilot programs may be nominated by a DoD Component Head or Component Acquisition Executive for participation in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology shall determine which specific programs will participate in the pilot program and will transmit to the Congressional defense committees a written notification of each defense acquisition program proposed for participation in the pilot program. Programs proposed for participation must be specifically designated as participants in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program in a law authorizing appropriations for such programs and provisions of law to be waived must be specifically authorized for waiver.

(b) Once included in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program, decision and approval authority for the participating program shall be delegated to the lowest level allowed in the acquisition regulations consistent with the total cost of the program (e.g., under DoD Directive 5000.1,³ an acquisition program that is a major defense acquisition program would be delegated to the appropriate Component Acquisition Executive as an acquisition category IC program)

(c) At the time of nomination approval, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology will establish measures to judge the success of a specific program, and will also establish a means of reporting progress towards the measures.

§ 2.5 Criteria for designation of participating programs.

(a) Candidate programs must have an approved requirement, full program funding assured prior to designation, and low risk. Nomination of a candidate program to participate in the Defense Acquisition Pilot Program should occur as early in the program's life-cycle as possible. Developmental programs will only be considered on an exception basis.

³Copies may be obtained, at cost, from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161.